4. Other measures initiated by the Government to improve the Nutritional States of the people are:—

— Improving agricultural and horticulture produce

— Improving the purchasing power of the people through income generating schemes

— Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Targeted Public Distribution system and Public Distribution system.

— Nutrition Education to increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breast feeding and dietary diversification.

5. Programmes for prevention of Specific Micronutrient Deficiency disorders other than iron deficiency:—

(i) Prophylaxis Programme to prevent Nutritional Blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency. This is also under the RCH programme.

(ii) National Iodine Deficiency disease Control Programme (NIDDCP)

(iii) Pilot Programme for control of Micronutrient Deficiencies

Industry status to medical services

†2053. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMANALI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether approval to foreign capital investment for developing health and medical field in the country as a lucrative industry, instead of letting it remain a social service sector is being considered;

(b) if so, whether Government has decided to give industry status to this sector; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) As per extant policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 100% on the automatic route is allowed in the Health Sector. As present there is no proposal to give industry status to the health sector in the country.

Community Health Insurance Scheme

2054. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received a request from the Andhra Pradesh Government for funding of State Government's Community Health Insurance Scheme which is proposed to be launched on pilot basis in three most backward districts of the State, *Viz.* Anantpur, Mahboobnagar and Srikakulam with public-private partnership under the National Rural Health Mission Programme;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the status of the above said proposal;

(c) the reasons for delay in giving clearance to it; and

(d) the time likely to be taken to sanction it?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has launched the "Rajiv Aarogyasri Community Health Insurance Scheme" to provide health coverage to the families living below porverty line, on a pilot basis in Anantapur, Mahboobnagar and Srikakulam districts on 01.04.2007.

The State Government has requested for a financial assistance of Rs. 46.20 crores under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), for the pilot project.

Proposal of the State Government has been considered and an amount of Rs. 10 crores has been agreed for the year 2007-08 to the State Government for implementation of the Scheme.

Specialization Course on Neuro Surgery in Sri Ram Chandra Bhanj Medical College, Cuttack

†2055. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is considering the demand being raised against the discontinuation of super specialization course (M.C.H.) on neuro surgery from the Sri Ram Chandra Bhanj Medical College, the first medical college located in the famous city of Cuttack in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far by Government to fulfil the said demand; and

(c) whether any discussion has been held in this regard with the Medical Council of India?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) Medical Council of India conducted the inspection of S.C.B. Medical College, Cuttack, Orissa in October, 2006 and did not recommend for recognition of M.Ch (Neuro surgery) qualification granted by Utkal University in view of certain deficiencies in terms of teaching faculty, OPD attendance and clinical material etc. Compliance on rectification of the above deficiencies pointed out in the inspection report was submitted by the Principal Secretary to Government of Orissa, Health and Family Welfare Department for which the inspector has been appointed by MCI for verification of the same. Further action can be taken as per proeedure stipulated in Indian Medical Council Act 1956 on receipt of MCI recommendations.

Setting up of national university

2056. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the proposal from the Chairperson of Khadi and Village Industries Commission to set up national university as a part of modernizing training programmes in khadi and rural industries sector;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.